



The Grange Courier

Golf Day



The Queens course at Gleneagles was the chosen venue for the annual John Mitchell golf day, held this year on Tuesday the 27th of September.

Forty two of our customers, suppliers and guests set out on a dry but blustery day to do battle for the top spot in the stableford rules competition.

After a hard fought day on the fairways, John Marshall of Beatson Building Services claimed the best individual score.

The team event was won by the quartet of; Tom Leonard and Robert Kelly of Elementis,

Livingston, with Tom Faughan of Deko, Cumbernauld and Donald McCulloch of Anchor Freight, Glasgow.

In the evening our guests retired to the Barony room within the hotel for dinner and were well entertained by renowned speaker and ex football referee; Willie Young.

Thanks to all who attended and helped make this such a special day.



Truckfest!

The usual fine weather graced Ingliston showground for this annual transport extravaganza, held this year on the weekend of 6th / 7th August.

Our drivers; Derek Lindores, Jim McCartney, Stuart MacDougall and David Scobie, presented a fine quartet of highly polished trucks for the record number of visitors to admire.

Their hard work preparing the vehicles did not go unnoticed and the judges awarded our fleet with a 'highly commended' certificate.



We have since had some very positive feedback on the presence of the John Mitchell fleet at this event, so congratulations and many thanks to our four show ambassadors!

New trucks



We have recently had a steady stream of new MAN and Mercedes Benz trucks joining our fleet, with two of the latter vehicles displayed on the manufacturers stand at Truckfest Scotland.

The latest MAN'S feature the Munich maker's new D20 'common rail' engine, which continues to impress us with pulling power and reliability.

The aforementioned 'Mercs' are the Axor mark 2 models; which incorporate a newly designed cab on a well proven chassis and engine / drive train.

We look forward to monitoring their respective performances, with a view to next year when we are scheduled to replace a large number of vehicles in our 5 year cyclic programme.

Tanks for the Job!

One of the more unusual jobs we handled this summer was the transportation and storage of around 100 storage tanks for the new Whyte and Mackay premises, under construction just east of our headquarters at Earls Road.

Unfortunately, the tanks were new and empty, so there was no chance of even the angel's share to enjoy! The huge cylinders were offloaded from boats in Grangemouth docks and stored carefully in our yard until required at the site.

Our picture shows the lifting and loading process in full swing on a glorious summer's day, with the new building visible in the central background.



Company News



The last six months has seen very steady progress with our business' ever increasing workloads and a number of new contracts being undertaken.

The recent focus on diesel prices has given us (and every transport company in the land) concerns, but with the end of the hurricane season now in sight, hopefully world oil production will stabilise soon. We have recently been evaluating our office staffing levels and have implemented a reorganisation to further enhance our customer service.

We hope you notice a positive difference, if not please tell us! We also look forward to 2006 which marks 50 years of the John Mitchell haulage business and while we will allow ourselves a small nostalgic look back over the years, our focus as ever will be on the future and the best way to develop our core operation to benefit our customers, suppliers and staff alike.

Testing Times!

Britain's biggest selling road transport magazine; 'Trucking' recently paid a return visit to John Mitchell to carry out another of its extensive head to head tests for the monthly 'Truck on Trial' feature.

The nine page colour article will feature technical road tests and photographs of the 2 trucks trialled; (a MAN D20 TG & Mercedes Axor mark II tractor units.)

Our driver's; Alan Brown & James Grant also feature in the story along with the added opinions of our Fleet Engineer and Managing Director.



To find out which one of the trucks faired the best, in what turned out to be a very close contest; pick up a copy of the December issue of this popular journal, which will be available around the 2nd of November.

The Two Minute Interview

This issue we're back on the road with Bruce Cairnie, one of our 'tank commanders', who's on 2 wheels in his spare time and 18 during work time.

Briefly describe your job: Delivering bulk powder in tanks throughout Scotland & Northern Ireland.

What's the most enjoyable part of your work? Driving and meeting different people.

Where is your favourite place / holiday destination? Florida.

What are your hobbies and interests? Motorcycling.

What tape / CD are you listening to at the moment? Bon Jovi (This left feels right.)

What was the last film you saw at the cinema? Don't go to Cinema.

What's the best book you've read in the last 12 months? Dark Winter by Andy McNab.

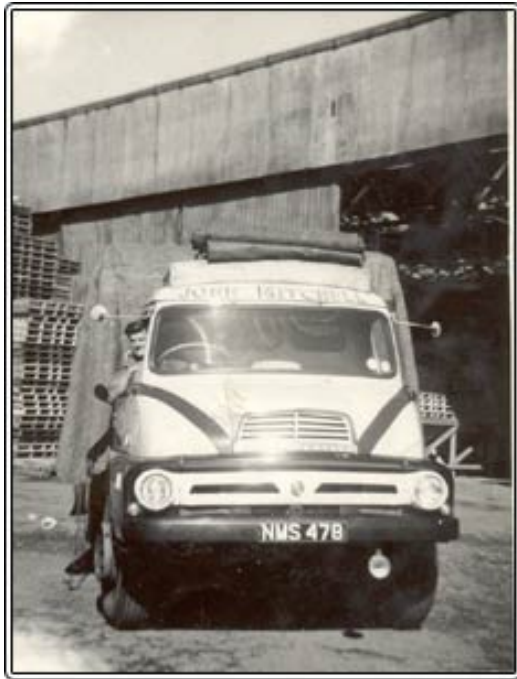
What's your favourite TV programme? Who wants to be a millionaire?

If you won £10 million on the lottery, what would you spend it on? I will wait until that happens.

And finally, who would you most like to be stuck in a lift with? Shania Twain.



Rear View Mirror



It's back to 1958 for our look in the rear view mirror this time round and what would indeed prove to be a landmark year. Most importantly the late John Mitchell would marry Catriona McGregor, who left her job as a nursing sister in Glasgow to help run the ever expanding haulage business.

This new partnership was very effective and soon afterwards John would purchase his first 'brand new' lorry, which would swell the fleet up to a total of four trucks! The model in question was a Thames Trader (shown in our picture) which was supplied by Millars of Falkirk and driven by Willie Meichan.

Elsewhere in that year; explorer Sir Edmund Hillary reached the South Pole, Manchester United lost 7 players among the 21 fatalities in the tragic Munich air crash, long distance telephone calls could now be dialled without the operator with the advent of 'trunk dialling', the country of Iraq was in the news even then with a military coup deposing the king and last but not least a young Julie Andrews starred as Eliza

Doolittle in the newly arrived smash hit from Broadway; 'My Fair Lady.'

The Competition

This time round we're offering our readers the chance to win a MAN holdall filled with some top quality branded goodies from this renowned manufacturer, courtesy of MAN ERF, Bellshill.



The Question: What anniversary does our company celebrate next year? If you have read your Grange Courier carefully, you should know the answer!

Please e-mail your answer to newsdesk@johnmitchell.co.uk before March 31st.

The winner will be drawn at random from the correct entries and the result will be announced in newsletter number 10.

Congratulations to George Beard of Banbury, Oxon, whose winning email was pulled from the mail sack for the Dennison Trailers car care kit competition in newsletter no. 8. The correct answer was 'Fleet number 235, Grange Sparrowhawk.' Thanks to all who entered the competition and for those who have not won yet, keep trying! Next time it could be you!

John Mitchell Merchandise

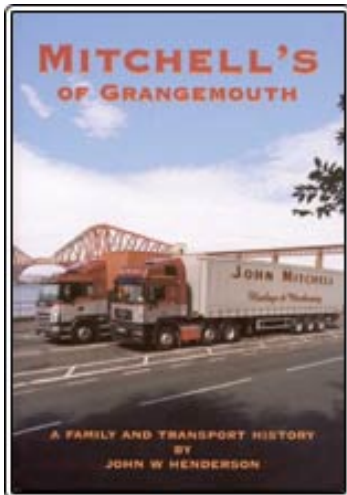
We are pleased to offer the following official company products for sale; all prices include postage and packing. If you require any further information on these goods, please contact Lyn Sharpe at our office (tel. 01324 496309).

Painting



We have a small number of prints of Alan Spillett's classic painting available for sale. These Giclee fine art prints are produced to a very high standard and the image size is 10" x 14" with surrounding border. The cost per print is £40. Please allow six weeks for delivery and note that cheques sent will not be cashed until 1 week prior to despatch.

Book



A book on our family firm was first published in November 2000. "Mitchells of Grangemouth", a family and transport history, is a 48-page well illustrated history of the Mitchell family's carting, haulage and local involvement in the area's heritage from 1892 right up to present day. The cost of this publication is £12.

Send your orders to: John Mitchell Haulage and Warehousing, Earls Road Industrial Estate, Grangemouth. FK3 8XA. Please allow 28 days delivery for the Book and Model.

Thank you for reading the Grange Courier, if you have a story or picture that you think would be suitable for our magazine, please mail us at newsdesk@johnmitchell.co.uk